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SENATE BILL 1170 By  
Herron

HOUSE BILL 1899  
By Shaw

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, relative to  
voting methods.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. For the purposes of this act:

(1) "Internet voting system" means an election system that uses electronic ballots that would allow voters to transmit their voted ballot to election officials over the internet.

(2) "Internet voting" means the casting of a secure and secret electronic ballot that is transmitted to election officials using the internet.

(3) "Remote internet voting" means the unsupervised use of an internet voting machine to cast a ballot over the internet using a computer not necessarily owned and operated by election personnel. Authentication of the voter would rely on procedures to include some form of identity verification that is at least as secure as existing voting procedures.

SECTION 2. The state coordinator of elections is directed to study the issue of internet voting and remote internet voting as alternative voting methods for use in future state elections.

SECTION 3. The state coordinator of elections shall consider:

- (1) Security considerations for remote internet voting;
- (2) Accuracy, integrity and security in computerized vote-tallying;
- (3) Availability of electronic voting software and systems;
- (4) Whether people would vote by internet;
- (5) Accessibility of the internet by the public, including low-income voters;
- (6) Public acceptance of internet voting;
- (7) Whether county election officials would require significant fiscal and human resources to undertake the implementation of remote internet voting systems;
- (8) Cost and feasibility of training election officials to use and implement remote internet voting systems and internet voting systems; and
- (9) Any other information the state coordinator determines is relevant to these issues.

SECTION 4. The state coordinator of elections shall consult with individuals and organizations experienced or knowledgeable with internet voting systems and conduct research as may be relevant to the purposes of this act.

SECTION 5. The state coordinator of elections shall make a written report to the senate state and local government committee and house state and local government committee of the general assembly by January 31, 2002 based on the coordinator's findings pursuant to this act and make recommendations for further legislative action if necessary.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.